



An Order of Worship for the Lord's Day
Stone Presbyterian Church
A Welcoming and Affirming Congregation
September 22, 2019 ~ The 15th Sunday after Pentecost



We Gather to Worship God

PRELUDE "Living Word of God Eternal" Rolf Unkel
(Please listen quietly to the prelude as the community prepares for worship)

CHORAL INTROIT AND POURING OF BAPTISMAL WATER

CALL TO WORSHIP

We believe in the God of grace and glory, even in the midst of our confusion and our doubt.
We believe in God's purpose for our lives, a purpose that endures and makes sense of all our days.
 We believe in God's unfailing guidance, surrounding all our pain and misfortune.
We believe in God's saving grace, forgiving our sins and delivering us from evil.
 We believe in the living God, whose life gave us our birth and transcends our death!
 For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever.
Let us worship God.

+HYMN #512 (1, 2, 4, 5) "Living Word of God Eternal" to REGENT SQUARE
(+ Those who are able are invited to stand)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(first together, then in silent reflection)*

God of truth and God of grace,
we confess that too often we are nondescript Christians,
rarely very wicked and seldom very loving.
We drift along in the stream of our culture,
absorbing its values, diluting our faith,
and accepting a general indifference and common selfishness.
We participate in the popular fashions and delusions,
following Christ rather timidly, as if from afar.
For our tacit participation in the injustices of society,
we seek your forgiveness and mercy.
For our many private faults and static faith we beg your forgiveness
and we ask the grace to return to you and be made whole,
for the sake of our very lives and for the sake of the world you love so much;
through Christ Jesus our Savior. Amen.

RESPONSE HYMN #2275 "Kyrie"
("Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.")

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

+A DOXOLOGY #578 "Glory Be to the Father" OLD SCOTTISH CHANT

+THE PEACE OF CHRIST

WELCOME

We Listen for the Word of God

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING
(You are invited to say the concluding "amen" aloud.)

LESSONS FROM THE SCRIPTURES

Jeremiah 8:18—9:1 *There is no balm in Gilead to soothe the prophet's grief*
 The Word of the Lord. / **Thanks be to God.**

1 Timothy 2:1—7 *God wants everyone to be made whole.*
 The Word of the Lord. / **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM "To Know the Love of God" Allan Robert Petker

Luke 16:1—13 *A clever steward develops a clever strategy.*
 The Word of the Lord. / **Thanks be to God.** Told by Donna Goodfriend

SERMON "Let's Make a Deal"

We Respond in Faith with Thanksgiving

+HYMN #2218 "You Are Mine" YOU ARE MINE

+ **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (together)**
New life in Christ takes shape in his community of faith, the church,
in which we know that God loves and accepts us in spite of who we are.
Therefore, we can accept ourselves and love others,
knowing that we have no other ground
on which to stand than the grace of God.
This new life does not release us from conflict



with unbelief, pride, lust and fear.
We still have to struggle with disheartening difficulties and problems.
Nevertheless, as we mature in love and faithfulness
in our life with Christ, we live in freedom and good cheer,
bearing witness on good days and evil days,
confident that our new life is pleasing to God and helpful to others.
(from "The Confession of 1967," Presbyterian Church USA)

LIFE OF THE CHURCH, JOYS AND CONCERNS

MINUTE FOR MISSION – STEWARDSHIP – TIME

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (Traditional, Hymnal, p.16)

OFFERTORY "Tallis's Canon" Andrew Moore

+A DOXOLOGY#593 "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" Avery & Marsh

+PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We Go Out to Live and Serve in the Name of Christ

+HYMN #538 "Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing" SICILIAN MARINERS

+ CHARGE & BENEDICTION

+CHORAL RESPONSE

+ POSTLUDE

STONE CHURCH WELCOMES YOU TO WORSHIP

September 22, 2019 ~ 15th Sunday after Pentecost ~10:30 a.m.



*The purpose of Stone Church is to be an inviting, spiritual community of Christ,
engaging in worship that inspires and challenges us to learn and grow
as we reach out in caring and service, trusting in the love of God.*

All the People, Ministers

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Scott Leonard, Commissioned Lay Pastor
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Gerald G. Platz, Pastor Emeritus
Janice LeFrois, Office Administrator
Jesse Miller, Sexton

www.stonepres.org ~ www.facebook.com/stonepres

STEWARDSHIP: Today is the first Sunday of our 2019 Stewardship series – “**Fan into flame the gifts of God**” (2 Timothy 1:6) - which will continue next Sunday and culminate with our Consecration Sunday service and luncheon on October 6. This series is designed to help each of us consider our individual relationship to God and to Stone Church and how we can use our God-given bounty to improve the world.

We are compelled to step forward with courage; to unstintingly spread love; and to tirelessly encourage others to follow the everlasting way of Christ. Our joyful giving to Stone Church, and our accompanying pledge to labor towards a better world, is a way to demonstrate our willingness to do something good with the abundance God has provided.

Please take the opportunity to participate in these Sunday services and plan to joyfully participate in our special Consecration service and luncheon on October 6.

RISE AGAINST HUNGER: We now need volunteers for the day of the event – **September 28th** to help pack meals at Clinton High School cafeteria. There are 2 shifts: 9:00-11:00 and 11:30-1:30. The Rise Against Hunger campaign strongly encourages us to pre-register on-line at (<http://events.stophungernow.org/clintonUMC092819>), for planning purposes. However, if you are unable to do this for any reason, you may sign up in the back of the church.

It takes many hands to pack over 40,000 meals. Please mark your calendar & plan to participate.

HOPE HOUSE WISH LIST: This month’s wish list includes the following: **BREAKFAST CEREAL, COFFEE, SUGAR, HOT CHOCOLATE, BUTTER OR MARGARINE, DEODORANT, SHAMPOO, CONDITIONER, NAPKINS, TOILET PAPER.** Any donation that you designate for food or personal needs will greatly be appreciated. Any questions, contact Ceil Gilbert (853-8289) or ceilgilbert@yahoo.com.

THE COUNTRY PANTRY: A big thank you for making the annual kids packs a success. Now it is time to think about Thanksgiving.

The pantry will be collecting **STUFFING, CRANBERRY SAUCE AND GREEN BEANS,**

I will let you know as certain needs become known.

PLEASE NOTE: They have a shortage of **PEANUT BUTTER, TUNA AND PEAS.**

FAIR TRADE SHOPPE: UPAVIM’s mission: To support the women of La Esperanza, Guatemala in their fight for better economic, healthcare and educational opportunities for themselves, their families and their community. The oven mitt, potholders and worry dolls are all made by women in the UPAVIM organization.



PANCAKE BREAKFAST to benefit **The Country Pantry** on Saturday, September 28th from 7:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m. at the Community Room in the Martin Luther Building. Come & enjoy a hearty, delicious breakfast for only \$7 per person, children under 5 free, while supporting your community. All proceeds go directly to the pantry for holiday distributions (toward Thanksgiving food & Christmas) There will also be premium baskets raffles and door prizes too!! Hope to see you there!

ANNUAL PIE SALE: Will be on Saturday, 9/28/19 from 10am to 2pm. We would love donations of all kinds of pies, but the focus will be on apple. As in the past, we will be featuring our “drive-thru pies” again (which seems to be very popular). We would appreciate monetary



donations, if you are unable to bake. As always, we will be needing help selling the pies, too. For more information, contact Ceil Gilbert at 315-853-8289 or Donna Goodfriend at 315-749-4085. Sign-up sheets will be available.

The 17th ANNUAL PARKINSON’S AWARENESS WALK will be on Saturday, September 28th at 10:00 a.m. on the Presbyterian Homes & Services Campus. Please come early for registration.

Pre-registration will be held Friday, September 27th from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. in the lobby of the Presbyterian Home. Pre-registration is not mandatory but is greatly appreciated. Every walker must be registered to receive a surprise giveaway.



THE CALENDAR



Monday - 9/23/19:	3:00p.m.-5:00p.m.	Hope House
Tuesday – 9/24/19:	5:00 p.m.	Presbytery Meeting
Thursday – 9/26/19:	10:00a.m.-6:30 p.m.	Fair Trade Shoppe
Saturday – 9/28/19:	9:00a.m.-1:30p.m.	RAH Meal Packing
Saturday – 9/28/19:	10:00a.m.-2:00p.m.	Harvest Pie Sale
Sunday – 9/29/19:	9:15 a.m.	Choir Practice
Sunday- 9/29/19:	10:00 a.m.	Worship

Want to see what else is on the calendar? Go to our Web page – stonepres.org & click on the “CALENDAR ICON”



GREETER: Judy LaGasse

PRAYER CHAIN: If you would like to add someone to our prayer list or would like to receive the prayer list for daily prayer, please go to our website www.stonepres.org and click on “Prayer Request” or call the church office at 315-853-2933

Prayer Request:

Daniel Kolb
 The Kolb Family
 Jack Cassidy
 Elaine Hecking
 Lauralyn Kolb
 Bob Miller
 Tiffany Heintz
 Christine Tuttle
 Sue Raitt
 Dorothy Alberico
 Sue Riggles
 Anna Gogel
 David Harris
 Debra LaFont

Members/Friends of the Week:

Bev Miller
 Deborah Gakpo
 David & Colleen Geer





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PRELUDE

“Living Word of God Eternal”

Rolf Unkel

(Please listen quietly to the prelude as the community prepares for worship)

CHORAL INTROIT & POURING OF BAPTISMAL WATER

[SCOTT LEONARD and PAT JOSEPH speak from choir loft]

CALL TO WORSHIP

PAT: We believe in the God of grace and glory.

even in the midst of our confusion and our doubt.

PEOPLE: We believe in God's purpose for our lives,

a purpose that endures and makes sense of all our days.

SCOTT: We believe in God's unfailing guidance,

surrounding all our pain and misfortune.

PEOPLE: We believe in God's saving grace,

forgiving our sins and delivering us from evil.

PAT: We believe in the living God,

Whose life gave us our birth and transcends our death.

SCOTT: For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever.

ALL: Let us worship God!

[SCOTT and PAT go downstairs to the chancel together]

+HYMN #512 (1, 2, 4, 5) *Living Word of God Eternal* to REGENT SQUARE
(+Those who are able may stand.)

CALL TO CONFESSION

PAT: The plea is as old as the Psalms:

“Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of your name.

Deliver us, and forgive our sins, for your name’s sake.”

Let us admit to one another and to God that we stand

in need of mercy and renewal.

**Let us make our confession of sin, confident of the grace, mercy
and love of God.**

Let us pray, first together, and then in silence.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(first together then in silent reflection)*

PAT: God of truth and God of grace,

**we confess that too often we are nondescript Christians,
rarely very wicked and seldom very loving.**

We drift along in the stream of our culture,

**absorbing its values, diluting our faith,
and accepting a general indifference and common selfishness.**

We participate in the popular fashions and delusions,

following Christ rather timidly, as if from afar.

For our tacit participation in the injustices of society,

we seek your forgiveness and mercy.

For our many private faults and static faith we beg your forgiveness

and we ask the grace to return to you and be made whole,

for the sake of our very lives

and for the sake of the world you love so much;

through Christ Jesus our Savior. Amen.

[Long pause. ROB will resume with the start of the Kyrie.]

RESPONSE HYMN #2275

“Kyrie”

(“Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.”)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

SCOTT: Friends, there is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul.

And this is it: the good news that in Jesus Christ we are forgiven and made whole.

Thanks be to God!

+A DOXOLOGY #578 *Glory Be to the Father* OLD SCOTTISH CHANT

+THE PEACE OF CHRIST

PAT: Despite the bleakness we may often feel or see in the world, as people of The Way, we have the peace of God which surpasses all understanding and guards our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

SCOTT: The Peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you. / *And also with you.*

PAT: Let us share the peace of Christ with each other

+REGATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME

SCOTT: Good morning and welcome to worship here at Stone Presbyterian Church on this third Sunday in September. I am Scott Leonard, pastor here at Stone Church, and our liturgist today is Pat Joseph. We have gathered praising God, and now we turn to God, opening ourselves in His Presence.

[SCOTT and PAT go up to pulpit area.]

We Listen for the Word of the Lord

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

(You are invited to say the “amen” aloud.)

PAT: The Lord be with you. /And also with you.

Let us pray.

**God of wisdom, power and love,
let the reading, telling and proclaiming of your Word
find fertile soil within our hearts.
Plant your Word within us.
Then rain down your love upon us,
so that our minds and hearts
may be stirred to produce the fruits of the Spirit:
love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity,
faithfulness, gentleness, self-control;
in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ we ask it. Amen.**

LESSONS FROM SCRIPTURE

***Jeremiah 8:18–9:1* There is no balm in Gilead to soothe the prophet's grief**
PAT: When Jeremiah asks the rhetorical question, “Is there no balm in Gilead?” he refers to the medicinal resin from a tree which grew east of the Jordan in the region of Gilead.

SCOTT: Jeremiah claims that there is no miracle cure,
no balm to soothe the people.
They have allied themselves with other nations in a futile attempt
to ward off the Babylonians,
and in the process have taken on the gods of those nations.
And so there is nothing that can heal this sickness unto death.

Hear the words of the prophet Jeremiah:
My joy is gone, grief is upon me,
my heart is sick.
Hark, the cry of my poor people
from far and wide in the land:
‘Is the Lord not in Zion?
Is her King not in her?’

(‘Why have they provoked me to anger
with their images,
with their foreign idols?’)

‘The harvest is past, the summer is ended,
and we are not saved.’

For the hurt of my poor people I am hurt,
I mourn, and dismay has taken hold of me.

Is there no balm in Gilead?

Is there no physician there?

Why then has the health of my poor people
not been restored?

O that my head were a spring of water,
and my eyes a fountain of tears,
so that I might weep day and night
for the slain of my poor people!

The Word of the Lord. / *Thanks be to God.*

[PAT goes to the choir loft with mic.]

1 Timothy 2:1-7 – *God wants everyone to be made whole.*

SCOTT: Written at a time in the life of the early church when Christians were suspect because they refused to be good citizens of the Roman empire by pledging allegiance to the gods of the state, the author of this letter, writing in the name of Paul, nonetheless urges believers to pray for everyone, including the civil authorities, in order that Christians may live “a quiet and peaceable life” because, he notes, it is the one true God’s desire that everyone should be saved (or made whole) through the knowledge of the truth of Jesus Christ. From the First Letter to Timothy, hear the word of God.

[SCOTT goes to the choir loft after introduction.]

PAT: First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings should be made for everyone, for rulers and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. Because there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humanity, Christ Jesus, himself human, who gave himself a ransom for all —this was attested at the right time. Because of this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

The Word of the Lord. / *Thanks be to God.*

ANTHEM

“To Know the Love of God”

Allan Robert Petker

Luke 16:1-9 *A clever steward develops a clever strategy.*

TOLD BY DONNA GOODFRIEND

SCOTT: When is doing wrong, right? Today’s parable is peculiar in that regard. It comes right after the parable of the prodigal son and, like that story, this one is about money. But while the prodigal son was prodigal, or wasteful with his money, in today’s story the steward is clever, yet dishonest with his money. Do the ends justify the means? Here is the troubling parable from today’s Gospel lesson as told by Donna Goodfriend.

DONNA: Then Jesus said to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. So he summoned him and said to him, “What is this that I hear about you? Give me an account of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer.” Then the manager said to himself, “What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.” So, summoning his master’s debtors one by

one, he asked the first, “How much do you owe my master?” He answered, “A hundred jugs of olive oil.” He said to him, “Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.” Then he asked another, “And how much do you owe?” He replied, “A hundred containers of wheat.” He said to him, “Take your bill and make it eighty.” And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes. “Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

SERMON

“Let’s Make a Deal”

We Respond in Faith with Thanksgiving

+HYMN #2218 (*Sing the Faith*)

“You Are Mine”

YOU ARE MINE

+AFFIRMING OUR FAITH (together)

**New life in Christ takes shape in his community of faith, the church,
in which we know that God loves and accepts us in spite of who we are.
Therefore we can accept ourselves and love others,
knowing that we have no other ground
on which to stand than the grace of God.
This new life does not release us from conflict
with unbelief, pride, lust and fear.
We still have to struggle with disheartening difficulties and problems.**

**Nevertheless, as we mature in love and faithfulness
in our life with Christ, we live in freedom and good cheer,
bearing witness on good days and evil days,
confident that our new life is pleasing to God and helpful to others.**

(from "The Confession of 1967," Presbyterian Church USA)

LIFE OF THE CHURCH, JOYS & CONCERNS

Welcome + visitors	
Storytellers Monday	
Retreat Sat. 10/1/16	

MINUTE FOR MISSION – STEWARDSHIP – TIME

[MARY ANN speaks.]

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER (Traditional)
p. 16, Hymnal “*debts*” & “*debtors*”

SCOTT: The Lord be with you. / ***And also with you.*** Let us pray.

**PAT: Almighty God, you created the heavens and the earth
and made us your image.**

**Teach us to discern your hand in all your works
and to serve you with reverence and thanksgiving.**

**Increase our doubt that armaments and wars bring peace,
that technology and intelligence alone can cure the ills of the world,
that human beings are the controllers of all things.**

**Give us grace to blush for our mistakes and arrogance,
forgiveness for our foolishness in failing to live as stewards
of your good creation.**

SCOTT: Deliver us from the cowardice that dares not face new truth,
the laziness that is content with half-truth,
the arrogance that thinks it knows all truth.

May we plead no extenuating circumstances, no frailty of nature,
no force of temptations,
no persuasions of those who lead us astray,
but grasp us with zeal and earnestness
to the purposes of grace as they have been demonstrated for us
in our Lord Jesus Christ.

**PAT: We pray for the Church in all its many forms,
and particularly for Stone Church,
for our pastor and ruling elders and deacons,
for all those who are a part of this community of faith,
that we may be faithful, open, caring, committed and hopeful people.**

SCOTT: As we lift up our world, we pray for all who are in positions of leadership,
for countries in transition and turmoil,
for cooperation and shared purpose among our leaders,
for our President and the Congress of the United States,
that the pettiness of ideology may give way to a greater sense
of purpose and unity,
so that we and all your people may lead quiet and peaceable lives
in all godliness and dignity
and that the most vulnerable may be cared for in ways
that help us all be more human.

We pray for dialogue among those of different faiths, respect for human rights,
for a compassionate balance in economic policies that will mean
sufficient prosperity for all your children to thrive on this good earth.

PAT: Open our hearts, we pray,

so that we may respond to the needs of all our brothers and sisters.

**We pray for those affected by floods, fires, hurricanes and typhoons,
the families of those who lost loved ones to gun violence
and senseless crimes,
for those nearby who are known to us
and for those in every place whose needs are unknown to us
we offer up our prayers.**

SCOTT: Hear now the concerns and offerings of prayer we bring to you in fervent silence.

[SILENCE]

And finally, we pray for ourselves, as we commend our lives into your hands,
that we may trust in your loving providence, may live responsible
and responsive lives in faith,
making our plans in accord with your purposes
and abandoning them when you show us new possibilities,
living each day without anxiety for the next,
so that we may be a people who serve;

in the name of Jesus Christ, who taught us when we pray to say, “Our Father...”

CHORAL RESPONSE

CALL FOR OFFERING

No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth. The wealth you have is to serve God. Let us be faithful to God for what we have by now bringing forth the gifts of our offering and our tithes.

OFFERTORY

“Tallis’s Canon”

Andrew Moore

+A DOXOLOGY #593 “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” Avery & Marsh

+PRAYER OF DEDICATION

The Lord be with you. / *And also with you.*

We do give you thanks, not only because it is right,
but because it is our joy and pleasure to be people of gratitude and praise,
always and everywhere to be thankful for blessings
with which you have showered us so freely and generously.

Accept these our gifts as a sign of our commitment to your purposes
and as an act of love for the world you love so much;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

We Go Out to Live and Serve in the Name of Christ

+HYMN #538 “Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing” SICILIAN MARINERS

+CHARGE, BENEDICTION

The Lord dismisses us with a blessing: to go out into the world in peace,
May the Lord continue to bless us with wisdom, that we may know
when to speak and when to be silent,
when to offer help and when to hold back,
when to ask for help and when to go it alone,
when to comfort and when to challenge,
when to pray and when to get busy,
when to share your story, and when to listen to another's.

And may the grace of our heavenly Father,
the love through Christ Jesus, our Lord and Savior,
the fellowship and communion of the Holy Spirit
be in us and work and live through us. Amen.

+CHORAL RESPONSE, +POSTLUDE